GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2991
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
SEMINAR AND EXHIBITION FOR WELFARE OF TRIBALS
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a Civil Society Seminar and Exhibition held in New Delhi demonstrated the manner in which innovative and pilot approaches reach out to the tribal people, the most underprivileged section of the Indian society;

(b) If so, the outcome of the seminar; and

(c) The steps taken by the Government for defining their development needs and tribal identity?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH)

(a) & (b): The Anthropological Survey of India, under the Ministry of Culture organized two seminars at New Delhi which included discussion on innovative and pilot approaches meant to reach out to the tribal people. The first seminar on `Human Origins, Genome and People of India` organized in 2004, discussed issues relating to human antiquity in the Indian sub-continent, biological diversity found among the people of India and also how foragers, horticulturists, farmers, shifting cultivators and fishermen, many of whom are from Scheduled Tribe communities, are adapting to the changing situations and reacting to the development programmes. The second seminar on `Identity, Cultural Pluralism and State` organized in 2006 emphasized that people`s knowledge relating to biodiversity, intangible cultural heritage, and folk knowledge of sustainable development be combined with broader development issues. Based on the outcomes of the seminars, the Anthropological Survey of India has undertaken the work of establishing a natural repository of human genetic material and also documenting the indigenous knowledge system all over the country.

(c) : The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has brought out a draft Tribal Policy to address various issues relating to the protection and development of Scheduled Tribes.